By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for a publike, generall, and ſolemne Faſt.

THe Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie, vpon the humble Petition of the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, and Commons in the preſent Parliament aſſembled, taking into his Princely conſideration the many important cauſes, and extraordinary occaſions calling vpon him, and his people for a ioynt and generall humiliation of all Eſtates of his Kingdome, before Almighty God in Prayer and Faſting, aſwell for auerting this heauy Viſitation of Plague and Peſtilence, already begun, and dangerouſly diſperſed in many parts of this Kingdome, as alſo for drawing downe his Bleſſing vpon his Maieſty and his people, and Armies both by Sea and Land, hath therefore (according to the Royall and laudable example of other godly Kings) by the aduice and aſſiſtance of his Prelates and Biſhops, cauſed an Order or Direction for publique Prayer and Faſting, to be conceiued and publiſhed in Print, in a Booke for this ſpeciall purpoſe, to be generally obſerued and ſolemnized, in humble hope and confidence, that when both Prince and People together through the whole Land, ſhal ioyne in one common & ſolemne Deuotion, of ſending vp their faithfull and repentant Prayers to Almighty God at one inſtant of time, the ſame ſhall bee more auaileable to obtaine that mercie, helpe and comfort from him, which in the preſent important occaſions this Church and Common-wealth doe ſtand in neede of.

His Maieſtie doeth therefore by this preſent Proclamation ſtraitly charge and command, That a generall, publike, and ſolemne Faſt be kept and holden, as well by abſtinence from food, as by publike Prayers, Preaching, and hearing of the Word of God, and other ſacred duties, according to the direction of the ſaid Booke, in all collegiate and pariſh-Churches and Chappels within this Kingdome of England, and Dominion of Wales, vpon Wedneſday, the twentieth day of this inſtant moneth of Iuly, and from thenceforth continued vpon the Wedneſday of euery weeke following, by the reuerend, religious, and deuout Aſſembly of the whole Congregation of ſuch of the Inhabitants in each ſeuerall place, as are free and ſafe from danger of Infection, and may in euery Family be conueniently ſpared; Willing and requiring, aſwell all Archbiſhops, and Biſhops, in their ſeuerall Prouinces, and Dioceſſes, and all Parſons, Vicars and Curats, within their ſeuerall Pariſhes and Charges, as alſo all Maiors, Sheriffes, Juſtices of Peace, and other Officers in their ſeuerall places, limits, and iuriſdictions, reſpectiuely to take eſpeciall care, that this his Maieſties Royall commandement be duly executed and obſerued: And that they themſelues be lights of good example to the reſt; And that all others in manner aforeſaid, doe diligently and deuoutly follow and performe the ſame, as they tender their duties to Almighty God, and to their Prince and Countrey, and will anſwere for their prophane, or contemptuous neglect hereof at their vttermoſt perils.

Giuen at the Court at White-Hall, the third day of Iuly, in the firſt yeere of his Maieſties Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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M. DC. XXV.